CONDITIONS AT PARICUTIN VOLCANO

A letter from Cledonio Gutierrez, the Geological Survey's permanent observer at Paricutin volcano, Mexico, addressed
to Ray E. Wilcox of the Geological Survey's volcano investiga-
tions unit, tells of unprecedented absence of activity. During
January and February there were several explosions
stronger than any previously observed during the life of
Paricutin. On February 25 eruptive activity ceased and was
renewed only by a few weak surges between that time and
March 4. From March 4 until the date of the letter, March
29, the volcano remained totally inactive, with not even noises
or fume emission. A subsequent letter confirms total inactivity
through April 29, 1952. Wilcox states that this is the first
complete cessation of activity in the 9 years since the birth
of Paricutin.

ALASKAN VOLCANOES

Austin E. Jones, seismologist in charge of the Geological
Survey's Aleutian volcano observatory on Adak Island, has
supplied the following notes obtained during January from
Capt. V. Seidelhuber of a U. S. Navy tanker operating in
Aleutian waters.

April 1951—On a moonlit night, glow was reflected high
above Shishaldin volcano, the most active vent on Unimak
Island.

524. Mar. 21, 04:35, strong, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore, at
19°02.7'N, 155°13.9'W.

567. Mar. 21, 14:25, moderate. Off south shore, at 19°04.3'N,
155°14.3'W.

649. Mar. 22, 02:05, strong, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore, at
19°02.5'N, 155°12.1'W.

668. Mar. 22, 06:19, moderate. Off south shore, at 19°07.8'N,
155°03.4'W.

762. Mar. 22, 19:20, moderate, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore,
at 19°06.4'N, 155°03.9'W.

808. Mar. 23, 15:05, moderate, felt at Naalehu and Palapula. Off
south shore, at 19°11.7'N, 154°55.0'W.

842. Mar. 23, 10:05, moderate, felt at Naalehu and Kapapula.
Off south shore, at 19°02.8'N, 155°14.4'W.

904. Mar. 24, 02:02, moderate, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore,
at 19°08.0'N, 155°07.2'W.

927. Mar. 24, 13:29, strong, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore,
at 19°06.3'N, 155°02.4'W.

954. Mar. 25, 00:30, moderate. Off south shore, at 19°01.3'N,
155°17.0'W.

965. Mar. 25, 07:04, strong, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore,
at 19°04.3'N, 155°05.8'W.

979. Mar. 25, 09:17, strong, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore,
at 19°05.2'N, 155°05.1'W.

1016. Mar. 26, 04:40, moderate, felt at Naalehu. Off south
shore, at 19°03.3'N, 155°13.8'W.

1083. Mar. 27, 04:31, moderate, felt at Naalehu. Off south
shore, at 19°03.1'N, 155°12.6'W.

south shore, at 19°02.2'N, 155°13.9'W.

1166. Mar. 28, 11:57, moderate, felt at Naalehu. Off south
shore, at 19°03.3'N, 155°11.5'W.

1200. Mar. 29, 02:42, moderate, felt at Naalehu. Off south
shore.


1422. Mar. 31, 22:00, strong, felt at Naalehu. Off south shore,
at 19°02.2'N, 155°13.4'W.

VOLCANO NOTES AND NEWS

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ALASKAN VOLCANOES

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April 1951—On a moonlit night, glow was reflected high above Shishaldin volcano, the most active vent on Unimak Island.

October 1951—Lower slopes of Akutan showed fresh black ash on top of the snow, but the summit of the volcano was concealed in cloud.

December 20, 1951—A high column of white smoke (steam) rose above the summit of Makushin volcano, Unalaska Island, and the snow on the volcano was gray with ash.

January 17, 1952—A column of grayish-brown fume was rising from the crater on the summit of Goreloi volcano.

TSUNAMI OF MARCH 3, 1952, IN HAWAII

A violent earthquake off the east coast of the Japanese island of Hokkaido, at 01:23 on March 4 (Greenwich Civil time), caused extensive property damage and heavy casualties. It was accompanied by a tsunami ("tidal wave") which contributed greatly to the damage. This wave was recorded on the tide gauge in Honolulu harbor. According to Comdr. C. A. George, Supervisor of the Pacific District, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, the arrival time at Honolulu was 11:15 Greenwich Civil time, or 23:15 on March 3 by Hawaiian Standard time, and the amplitude of the wave was about 6 inches. The wave was recorded at Hilo also, with about the same amplitude. The wave traveled from Japan to Hawaii at an average speed of approximately 450 miles an hour.